

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
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USMISSION USUN  
USINFO WASHDC  
USMISSION USNATO  
USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS ANKARA 3723

USEEC

USINFO FOR VOA/PN PGM/RC, PGM/PPE, EU

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, TU, US  
SUBJECT: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON PROSPECTS FOR LIFTING THE EMBARGO

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1. SUMMARY: OVER THE PAST WEEK TURKISH EDITORIALISTS HAVE COMMENTED FREQUENTLY ON EFFORTS TO END THE ARMS EMBARGO AND ON WHAT MAY HAPPEN IF THESE EFFORTS FAIL. WRITERS IN LEFTIST AND SOME PRO-GOVERNMENT PAPERS EMPHASIZED THAT THE EMBARGO MAKES CLEAR TURKEY'S POSITION AND PERMITS THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO BEGIN SEEKING A NEW, INDEPENDENT STATUS. OPPOSITION EDITORIALISTS OPENLY QUESTION ECEVIT'S

COMMITMENT TO THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO AND WONDER WHETHER HE MAY BE SEEKING AN EXCUSE TO TURN TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION. THERE IS SOME CRITICISM OF THE GOT FOR FAILING TO MAKE ITS CASE MORE EFFECTIVELY IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA, AND LEADING EDITORIALIST ABDI IPEKCI ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO POSSIBILITIES IF THE EMBARGO CONTINUES. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ADDITION TO FACTUAL COVERAGE IN THE TURKISH PRESS ON THE HIRC AND SFRC VOTES ON THE ARMS EMBARGO, TURKISH EDITORIALISTS HAVE COMMENTED WIDELY ON THE EFFECTS OF THE EMBARGO. ON THE LEFT, EDITORIALISTS HAVE FOUND BENEFITS IN THE EMBARGO. IN PARTICULAR, THEY POINT TO TURKEY'S REALIZATION THAT IT MUST DEVELOP A MORE INDEPENDENT STATUS. THEY EMBARGO HAS ALSO "PROVED" TO TURKEY THAT MAINTENANCE OF ITS MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT IS COSTLY AND THERE IS A NEED FOR CHANGE, ACCORDING TO TEOMAN EREL IN GUNAYDIN. MORE STRIDENT COMMENTATORS HAVE WARNED THAT AMERICAN BASES MUST BE ELIMINATED EVEN IF THE EMBARGO IS LIFTED BECAUSE THEY ARE A THREAT TO THE SOVIET UNION AND THEREFORE ENDANGER TURKEY. LEFTIST CUMHURIYET ZPPLAUDS ECEVIT FOR NOT BEGGING THE US AND IN A COMMENT ECHOED BY OTHERS, ADDS THAT IF THE US PROPERLY ASSESSES ITS INTERESTS, IT WILL DO THE RIGHT THING.

3. OPPOSITION SON HAVADIS HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT ECEVIT MAY WANT THE EMBARGO TO CONTINUE TO JUSTIFY A SLIDE UNCLASSIFIED

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TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION. METIN TOKER, A PRESIDENTIAL CONTINGENT SENATOR, NOTES HIS FEAR THAT ECEVIT MAY BE SEEKING TO TURN TURKEY AWAY FROM ITS WESTERN ORIENTATION.

4. THERE HAS BEEN SOME CRITICISM OF RECENT GOVERNMENT ACTIONS, PARTICULARLY THE PRESENTATION OF THE CYPRUS PROPOSALS. SEVERAL EDITORIALISTS COMMENT THAT TURKEY FAILED TO MAKE ITS CASE BEFORE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION AND, IN FACT, MAY HAVE AIDED THE GREEK SIDE THROUGH ITS INEFFECTIVE ENDEAVORS.

5. CONCLUDING A SERIES OF ARTICLES EVALUATING THE EFFECTS OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE EMBARGO, MILLIYET'S SENIOR EDITOR ABDI IPEKCI SAYS FUTURE POSSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- REMAINING IN NATO, BUT WITH REDUCED PARTICIPATION;
- CLOSURE OF THE AMERICAN BASES;
- NEW DANGERS IN RELATIONS WITH THE US AND GREECE;
- MORE DIFFICULTY IN SETTLING PROBLEMS WITH GREECE AND CYPRUS; AND
- AN ACCELERATION OF TURKEY'S SEARCH FOR A MORE INDEPENDENT STATUS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
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